

Ribbens, Eric, Park, Isaac. 2011. The Wired Herbarium #10: Phenological data. In *The Vasculum* (newsletter of the Society for Herbarium Curators) 6(1), January 2011.

The herbarium database digitizes specimen information: identification, location, collector and date, habitat information ... and the information keeps getting more and more complex. Consider geographic information: I've seen specimens from the 1800s simply labeled "Porto Rico". Many of the specimens in the herbarium I curate cannot be located beyond an entire county. Then we started adding township/range/section information, and then GPS coordinates, including estimates of error.

But what about phenological data? We've all been taught that a good herbarium specimen typically is "fertile", i.e. has flowers and/or fruits. Should this information be recorded? To what detail?

Recently, Isaac Park contacted me to inquire if my herbarium was recording phenological data. I've invited him to describe his conception of how to record this data, and his rationale for adding this extra data.